

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE OFFING?

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER SOARES FOR A WHILE YESTERDAY EXPECTED PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO TO ASK HIM TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOARES CONCLUDED THAT NO MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES WERE IMMINENT. ACCORDING TO HIS AIDES, AZEVEDO BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT MUST SERVE UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD. THE PS POSITION REMAINS UNCLEAR:

--DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOARES AND PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO AT THE NOVEMBER 16 VISEU DEMONSTRATION SMASHED HOPES OF PS-PPD COOPERATION.

--THE PS WOULD NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT SOLELY WITH THE
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PCP EITHER, BUT IT WOULD GOVERN ALONE WITH THE AFM

IF THAT WERE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LAST WEEK'S EVENTS HAVE INCREASED PRES-SURES ON AZEVEDO TO FIND A "LEFTIST" SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. IN THIS REGARD IT SHOULD BE

REMEMBERED THAT AZEVEDO'S FIRST PREFERENCE IN FORMING THE SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS FOR A SOCIALIST/AFM GOVERNMENT, WITH NEITHER PCP NOR PPD PARTICIPATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6812 AND 6827, 11/17.)

2. MAURITANIA: NEW CLIENTS IN THE SAHARA

MAURITANIA HAS JOINED THE RANKS OF OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE AND ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A MOVEMENT, THE FLRSM, WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT THE SAHARAN PEOPLE. THE FLRSM CALLED ON ALL SAHARANS IN THE "OCCUPIED ZONE" TO JOIN ITS RANKS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IF THE "CONSULTATION" OF THE SAHARAN POPULATION REPORTEDLY ENVISAGED BY THE MADRID TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT EVENTUALLY TAKES THE FORM OF A REFERENDUM OF "INDIGENOUS POLITICAL GROUPINGS," MAURITANIA NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN ORGANIZATION OF KEPT NATIONALISTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) NOUAKCHOTT 2365, 11/17.)

3. THAILAND-LAOS: BORDER FLAREUP

WHAT EMBASSY BANGKOK TERMS A "FIRST CLASS BORDER INCIDENT" IS UNDERWAY ON THE MEKONG NEAR VIENTIANE, PRECIPITATED BY THE LODGING OF A THAI NAVY BOAT ON A SAND BAR. LAO FORCES FIRED ON THE VESSEL, KILLING AND WOUNDING PERSONS ON BOARD. THE THAI THEN MOVED UP REINFORCEMENTS, INCLUDING ARTILLERY AND TANKS. THREE LAO RIVER BOATS AND SOME RUSSIAN-MADE TANKS REPORTEDLY ARE MOVING TOWARD THE AREA. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 24201, 11/18.) KISSINGER

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